

31 January 1952

Memorandum for the Record

Subject: Discussion with Mr. Lyle Fisher,
General Counsel, GAO, on 29 January

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1. Mr. Houston and I met with Mr. Lyle Fisher, General Counsel of the GAO, to discuss the possibility of repealing Sections 3 and 5 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, and the expansion of Section 10 (a)(2) of that Act to include procurement and travel expenses.

2. We pointed out to Mr. Fisher that it now appeared necessary to expand our procurement authorities in Section 3, particularly in the field of research and development, and to amend several of the subsections of Section 5; and that it appeared particularly in connection with Section 5 that this would be a recurring problem as Congress amended and changed various statutes in this general field. We pointed out further that if these two sections were repealed, we would be free to adopt standards promulgated in various fields by other agencies and utilize general statutes to support our position as an alternative to continual amendments.

3. Mr. Fisher stated that while he and the Comptroller General felt that CIA should have the broadest possible powers, the Comptroller General was reluctant to extend these powers where not essential, and that if we could proceed with the alternative of amendments they would consider it highly preferable. Mr. Fisher offered the services of members of his staff to assist us in revising Section 5 and in redrafting our procurement section, with a view of writing a full procurement section directly into our Act.

4. We advised Mr. Fisher, informally, of certain other items we were proposing in our legislation, and he expressed particular approval of our suggested repeal of Section 9 of our Act (senior scientific intelligence grades).

Walter L. Pforshner
Legislative Counsel

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